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Letter dated 1 December 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya (see annex). The report covers the period from 20 October to 20 November 2016.

The report was prepared for transmission to the Security Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of OPCW of 20 July 2016 and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) of 22 July 2016.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), of 20 July 2016 and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 20 October 2016 to 20 November 2016 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-52/DEC.2 of 27 July 2016 and EC-M-53/DEC.1 of 26 August 2016.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Report by the Director General

Status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya

1. At its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision on the "Destruction of Libya's Remaining Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016) and requested the Director-General to assist Libya in developing a modified plan of destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. On 22 July 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2298 (2016), welcoming and endorsing the decision by the Council and requesting the Director General, through the Secretary General, to report to the Security Council on a regular basis until the destruction is complete and verified.

2. At the conclusion of its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016). In operative paragraph 17 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General to report to the Council on a monthly basis on the implementation of the decision. This third monthly report covers the period from 20 October to 20 November 2016.

Progress in the elimination of Libyan chemical weapons by the State Party hosting destruction activities

3. Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten mbH (GEKA mbH), the designated destruction facility at Munster, Germany, informed the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") of the continuation of destruction operations. As at 14 November 2016, GEKA mbH had destroyed 60.97 metric tonnes of tributylamine. This destruction was accomplished using the afterburner of the plasma arc system, and no problems were encountered.

4. On 2 November 2016, representatives of GEKA mbH informed the Secretariat that GEKA mbH began the destruction of Libya's 2-chloroethanol in Incineration Plant 1 ("Munster-1") on 31 October 2016.

5. GEKA mbH continues to finalise the construction of the neutralisation process system for the phosphorous trichloride and the thionyl chloride. The destruction of these two chemicals will not begin until 2017.

6. A team of Secretariat personnel will travel to Germany to conduct an inspection at GEKA mbH from 21 to 25 November 2016. Two observers from the Libyan National Authority will accompany the team. Observations from this visit will be included in the next monthly update.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Libya

7. As previously reported, the Secretariat was informed that during decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. The OPCW Laboratory has completed an analysis of the sample received from Libya, which was taken from the tank in question. In addition to determining the composition of the sample, the Laboratory was requested to ascertain whether the contents of the tank could be regarded as destroyed, or if residual declared chemicals were still present in amounts that would require the waste to be further chemically treated, as well as if the tank contents presented a proliferation risk.

8. Using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis, both PCl_3 and $POCl_3$ were detected in the sample, in the region of 5% by weight. As the remaining concentrations of PCl_3 and $POCl_3$ were found to be more than 0.1% by weight, the contents of the remaining tank cannot be considered as destroyed. The observations made during the analysis of the sample do, however, point towards potential means of destruction. The highly viscous mass found in the tank is dissolvable in water, and the chemicals requiring destruction (PCl_3 and $POCl_3$) will hydrolyse to harmless, non-scheduled chemicals.

9. Owing to the levels of the Category 2 chemicals remaining in the container (approximately 5%), the viscous nature of the remnants, and the limited ability to recover any useable material, the Secretariat is in a position to affirm that the material no longer presents a proliferation threat.

10. The Secretariat has been approached with offers to the trust fund for the decontamination of the decanted tanks and the clean-up of the containers remaining in Ruwagha. The hydrolysis of the contents of the remaining tank is anticipated to be accomplished during the clean-up operations.

Overall costs and status of the trust fund

11. On 1 August 2016, the Secretariat issued a Note calling for voluntary contributions for support to Libya (S/1400/2016, dated 1 August 2016). As at 31 October 2016, the trust fund contained a balance of EUR 848,090, with contributions having been received from Canada, Finland, New Zealand and the United States of America. To date, over EUR 386,354 has been disbursed from the trust fund for activities related to the destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. An additional EUR 44,000, contributed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was spent on removal operations. It is anticipated that invoices will be received shortly for verification activities that have taken place in Germany. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing a budget for the work related to the clean-up at Ruwagha. The European Union has expressed an interest in contributing to this effort. The Director General would once again like to express his appreciation to those States Parties that have already made or have committed to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund.